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REPORT

ON THE WORKING OF THE

REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT

IN THE

PROVINCE OF ASSAM

DURING THE TRIENNIUM

1914-16

BY

S. N. MACKENZIE, Esq., I.C.S.,
OFFG. INSPECTOR GENERAL OF REGISTRATION, ASSAM.



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SHILLONG:

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FROM

S. N. MACKENZIE, Esq., I.C.S.,

OFFG. INSPECTOR GENERAL OF REGISTRATION, ASSAM,

To

THE SECOND SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER
OF ASSAM.

Dated Shillong, the 16th April 1917.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the administration of the Registration Department for the three years ending the 31st December 1916. Four Imperial and one Provincial statements are appended.

2. Mr. N. E. Parry held charge of the Department during the first seven days of the month of January 1914, Mr. R. Friel from the 8th January till the 10th September of the same year, Mr. A. R. Edwards from the 11th September 1914 till the 25th April 1915, and I was in charge for the remainder of the period under review.

3. Thirty-nine offices were at work at the end of the year 1916, against 38 at the end of the year 1913. The temporary office at Gauripur was closed from the 31st March 1915. During the period under review, three *ex-officio* Sub-Registry offices in the Assam Valley were converted into wholetime offices. This is a new departure as far as this valley is concerned. The conversion was necessary owing to the increase in the volume of registrations in those offices. Experimental offices were also opened at Thakurbari and Sukhair in the Sylhet district and were ultimately retained permanently, as the number of documents registered showed that their retention was essential. The number and constitution of the offices at the end of the triennium were as follows :—

Wholetime offices, permanent	...	...	...	...	25
<i>Ex-officio</i> offices	...	...	...	...	14
Total	...	...	...	...	39

4. During the period under review, one Sub-Registrar died, and one retired from service. A further extension of service was granted to the senior Special Sub-Registrar Babu Abhaya Charan Nag.

5. It was noticed in the previous triennial report that in the case of the Special Sub-Registrars a system of time-scale pay was introduced, while the cadre of the Sub-Registrars was readjusted. During the period under review a revised scale of pay was sanctioned for the ministerial establishment in sadr and rural Sub-Registry offices. The pay of permanent muharrirs too was increased to Rs. 20 per mensem.

Brief Summary of results.
Total registrations (Form 1).

6. The following statement gives the results of the working of the Department for the last two triennial periods :—

	Number of registrations.				Total receipts.	Total expenditure.	Surplus.	Number of registration offices (average).
	Affecting immovable property.		Other registrations.	Total.				
	Compulsory.	Optional.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Total for the years 1914-18	298,126	18,605	21,733	326,469	326,253	192,776	133,623	30
Total for the years 1913-18	186,339	13,680	22,542	226,407	231,172	170,549	110,822	27

The total number of deeds registered during the triennium was 268,469 as compared with 225,507 in the previous triennium, the district of Sylhet alone contributing 193,923 documents against 157,732. Ninety thousand two hundred seventy one documents were registered in 1916, 90,039 in 1915 and 88,109 in 1914. There was therefore an increase of 42,962 or 19·05 per cent. during the past three years. All districts except the Garo Hills and Darrang contributed to the increase, and more particularly Sylhet, Cachar, Kamrup and Goalpara.

7. The variations in the number of documents registered under the main heads, and the percentages of increase or decrease in the triennium under report, as compared with the previous triennium and in the year 1916, as compared with the year 1915, are shown in the following table :—

	The triennium 1911—13 as compared with the triennium 1911—16.		The year 1916 as compared with the year 1915.	
	Increase or decrease.	percentage.	Increase or decrease.	Percentage.
1	2	3	4	5
Sales of immovable property both compulsory and optional.	+19,330	+18·28	+224	+·53
Mortgages of immovable property both compulsory and optional.	+17,938	+45·20	+894	+4·51
Perpetual leases	+237	+18·02	—84	—14·97
Term leases both compulsory and optional.	+3,472	+8·42	+719	+5·05
Obligations for payment of money ...	+1,224	+39·37	—165	—10·86
Sales of movable property ...	—66	—8·42	+45	+21·84
Miscellaneous registrations in Book IV...	—1,777	—9·95	—1,140	—19·42

It will be noticed that during the triennium registrations increased under all heads except "Sales of movable property" and "Miscellaneous registrations in Book IV." The largest percentages of increase were under the heads "Mortgages" and "Obligations for payment of money." The increase is in part due to "bad crops and dull trade." The District Registrar of Cachar, reports :—"The floods of 1915 and 1916 which gave rise to scarcity all over the district, and the partial failure of the rice crop sufficiently account for the increase under these heads." The District Registrar of Sylhet however reports :—"The cause of increases under 'Sales' and 'Mortgages' is often said to be the failure of crops and dearth of living, but I doubt whether this is so. Probably there is a growing appreciation of the need of embodying all transfers and agreements in formal documents, and landlords are trying to get tenants to give *kābuliyats*. The increase under 'Bonds' (obligations for payment of money) was due to the establishment of co-operative societies in villages." The District Registrar of Goalpara holds very much the same opinion :—"The increase under the heads 'Sales' and 'Mortgages' might be held to indicate a deterioration in the material condition of the people, but is more probably due to the growing tendency to have recourse to the protection afforded by registration." There can be no doubt whatever that registration is growing in popularity. The increase under "Leases" was due mainly to the zamindari re-settlement in Goalpara. The decrease of 1,777 under "Miscellaneous registrations in Book IV" was as in the previous triennium, due to the fact that the Muhammadan Registrars have been authorized to seal with their official seals *Kabinnamas* and *Talaqqamas* produced before them in connection with the registration of ceremonies relating thereto. The decrease under "Sales of movable property" was small, and no particular reason need be sought for it. It will however be noticed that, although there was a small decrease under this head as far as the triennium is concerned, there was an increase thereunder in 1916, as compared with 1915.

In the year 1916, registrations decreased under three main heads, and increased under four others. Increases were greatest under heads "Mortgages of immovable property" and "Term leases" and were due to an appreciation of the benefits of registration, the operations of Act VI of 1904, the mortgage bonds executed by Government servants to secure house building advances and also to the smaller purchasing power of money consequent on a rise in the price of food-grains. The

decrease in 1916 in comparison with the preceding year under head "Miscellaneous registrations in Book IV," which consisted mostly of *Kabinnamas* and *Talaznamas* has already been explained. Fluctuations under other heads call for no special remarks.

There was an increase of 15,250 documents under the head "Sale deeds" and of 13,252 under head "Mortgages" in the district of Sylhet alone. The District Registrar, Sylhet, is not convinced that this is due to the failure of crops and dearness of living as is generally supposed. His opinion has been given above. The total increase under the two heads "Sale" and "Mortgage" for the triennium was 32,178 in the two districts of Sylhet and Cachar alone.

The general expansion of registration in the province was due partly to the natural growth of business, and partly to the growing popularity of registration amongst the people, and the greater facilities afforded for registration.

8. Of the total number of registrations during 1916, 83,783 documents related to immovable property and 6,361 to movable property, against 82,311 and 7,441 respectively in 1915. During the triennium 246,731 documents had reference to immovable, and 21,331 to movable property as compared with 2,03,159 and 21,958 in the previous triennium. Three hundred ninety eight wills and 9 authorities to adopt were registered during the triennial period under report against 387 and 3 in the preceding triennium. Of the total number of registrations affecting immovable property in the three years ending 1916, 223,123 were compulsory and 18,605 optional as against 18,6529 and 16,630 in the preceding three years.

9. The total aggregate value of the transactions during the triennium rose to Rs. 4,77,09,160 from Rs. 4,49,94,693 in the previous triennium, the average value of each transaction being respectively Rs. 177 and Rs. 199. In the triennium ending 1910, the average value was Rs. 183. The District Registrar, Sylhet, says that the reason for the fall in value is "the falling off in land values due to scarcity." The District Registrar of Cachar has not assigned any cause for the decrease.

10. The number of miscellaneous operations increased from 21,071 in the triennium ending 1913 to 21,729. In 1916 the number was 6,914 against 7,257 in 1915 and 7,558 in 1914. Searches and applications for copies form the great bulk of such operations. The increase in the triennium is small and calls for no explanation. There was a gradual decrease in the number of these operations year by year. This is mainly due to the termination of survey of permanently-settled land of certain parganas in Sylhet, and also to the decrease in the number of suits.

11. Thirty five offices were at work at the close of the triennium under review as compared with 34 at the end of the year 1913. The following table shows the number of ceremonies registered and the fees and gratuities realised during the last five calendar years, 1912 to 1916 :—

Working of the Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces Registration Act.

					Ceremonies.	Fees and gratuities. Rs.
1912	..	...	...	...	5,235	7,416
1913	...	...	...	...	6,790	10,824
1914	...	...	...	...	6,585	9,839
1915	...	...	...	...	6,814	9,546
1916	...	...	...	...	5,393	7,974

The Permanent Committee for the supervision of Muhammadan Registrars and Qazis, which was constituted in 1912 for the province of Assam for a period of three years, was reconstituted in 1915 with the same members, on the nomination of the Commissioners of Divisions. The practice of marriage and divorce registration is gaining in favour with the Muhammadans of Cachar, Sylhet and Goalpara: in the Assam Valley districts however very few ceremonies are registered. The remarks made last year in this connection hold good. The excessive gratuities demanded by Muhammadan Registrars, to which reference was made in the last triennial report, still prove an effective check on the number of registrations. The question of abolition of the gratuity system and fixation of an increased rate of fees chargeable by the Muhammadan Marriage Registrars, will again be considered by the Permanent Committee and recommendations submitted in due course.

The class from which Muhammadan Registrars are recruited, and the fact that these officers have to pass a departmental examination should tend to make registration popular. I cannot help feeling that the members of the Permanent Committee could do more than they do in this direction. I have drawn the attention of members to the desirability of inspecting offices in the districts in which they live.

12. (a) The table below gives the number of *kabinnamas* and *talaqnamas* registered in Sub-Registry offices, and the fees realised thereon, during the past five years :—

Miscellaneous.			Kabins.	Talaqs.	Fees. Rs.
Year.					
1912	...	...	1,951	117	3,288
1913	...	...	2,537	141	3,519
1914	...	...	2,167	168	3,909
1915	...	...	2,362	146	4,235
1916	...	...	1,539	110	2,842

The District Registrar, Nowgong, reports that there was a large increase in the number of *talaqnamas* and *kabinnamas* registered in his district both before Sub-Registrars and Muhammadan Registrars in consequence of the fact that the immigrants to the district, Muhammadans coming from Mymensingh and Cachar, prefer to register all such documents. As the Muhammadan Registrars are permitted to register *kabinnamas* presented before them and as the popularisation of such registration is desirable, the decrease in the number of such documents presented before Sub-Registrars is quite satisfactory. Muhammadans of good social standing do not generally register their ceremonies at the office of the Muhammadan Registrar, but they do register their *kabinnamas*. Muhammadans of small means resort to the Muhammadan Registration office for registering their ceremonies only, as they cannot afford to register both the ceremonies and the documents relating thereto. As observed last year, it is preferable, in the circumstances, that the performance of the actual ceremony should be recorded. The number of *kabinnamas* and *talaqnamas* registered at the Sub-Registry office for 1909 was 5,117 and 244; the corresponding figures for 1916 were only 1,539 and 110.

(b) The number of unclaimed documents rose from 8,333 at the close of the previous triennium to 9,034 at the close of the triennium ending 1916 and the number of unclaimed documents destroyed in the same period rose from 3,932 to 3,986. The increase was small in both the cases, and was not in proportion to the increase in the number of documents registered. To this increase, Sylhet contributed very largely, and the District Registrar attributes this increase to the fact that the Sub-Registrars do not make regular use of the facilities allowed for returning documents through the post.

(c) Nine hundred and seventy three documents were impounded in the triennium against 816 in the previous triennium. Eight hundred and eight documents were impounded in the district of Sylhet alone. There was a decrease in the number in the triennium ending 1913 in comparison with the triennium ending 1910, so the present increase is not encouraging. A possible explanation is that in rural areas where new offices have been opened, people are not well acquainted with the provisions of the Stamp Law.

(d) The number of prosecutions did not increase during the triennium; of 4 prosecutions 3 came from Sylhet. In one the charge was false personation, and the accused was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for one year and a half.

(e) Appeals under section 72 and applications under section 73 were, as a rule, disposed of promptly. The number of appeals during 1916 was 29 only.

FINANCIAL.

13. The receipts of the Department from all sources amounted to Rs. 3,26,238 as compared with Rs. 2,81,172, in the previous triennium, being an increase of 16.03 per cent. This is satisfactory. In 1916, receipts fell from Rs. 1,11,035 in 1915 to Rs. 1,05,653, or a decrease of 4.84 per cent. To this decrease, the district of Sylhet contributed Rs. 7,963 consequent on a decrease in the number of registrations during the year. The increase during the triennium is due to the larger number of registrations. The total income of the year increased in all districts except Sylhet, Darrang and Nowgong. Neither the increase nor the decrease in Darrang and Nowgong call for special remarks.

14. In the triennium ending 1916, the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,92,776 against Rs. 1,70,549 in the previous triennium, the charges for superintendence not being taken into account. Expenditure (Form No. III). There were increases under the heads "Fixed salaries of Registering officers" and

"Cost of Establishment," while there were decreases under the remaining heads, the result being a net increase of Rs. 22,227 over the figures of the previous triennium. The increases under "Fixed salaries" and "Cost of establishment" were due to new offices being opened, and *ex-officio* being converted into whole-time offices. The decrease is specially noticeable under head "Percentage paid to Registering officers," which was due mainly to the abolition of commission to *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars in the Assam Valley Division. The figure under this head for the triennium was only Rs. 6,405 as against Rs. 13,353 in the preceding triennium. The decrease of Rs. 1,873 under head "Other items of expenditure" was due to the fact that in the triennium ending 1913 records were taken from Sibsagar to Jorhat, while furniture had to be purchased for the rural Sub-Registry offices in Sylhet and Cachar, whereas in the three years ending 1916 no such expenditure was incurred. The decrease was also partly due to the fact that strictest economy was exercised in the expenditure of contingent grants.

15. The increase of Rs. 20,735 under head "Cost of establishment" was shared by both the sub-heads, the sub-head "Permanent" contributing Rs. 11,279 towards the increase. The large increase was due to the employment of clerks and muharrirs sanctioned in connection with the establishment of new departmental offices, and the conversion of *ex-officio* into whole-time offices. A revised scale of pay for the ministerial and menial establishment was also introduced during the period under review. It will be noticed that the expenditure under sub-head "Temporary" did not increase in proportion, the increase amounting to Rs. 1,506 only. This was due to the rigid enforcement of the rules for the employment of extra muharrirs.

16. The surplus at the credit of the Department at the close of the triennial period under report was Rs. 13,422 as compared with Rs. 1,10,623 during the triennium ending 1913, an increase of 20.64, per cent. which is on the whole very satisfactory. The net savings of the Department decreased from 1914 to 1915 and from 1915 to 1916. This is mainly due to the reason given above, the revision of the pay of the ministerial establishment of the Department. This revision came into effect on the 1st March 1914. The pay of some of the officers of the Department was fixed on a time-scale basis, and consequently several officers have already drawn more than one increment.

17. As noticed already, a few new Sub-Registry offices were opened in the rural areas in the Sylhet district. The office at Thakurbari was given joint jurisdiction with Sylhet Sadr. There were only two Sub-Registry offices in the large and populous subdivision of Sunamganj, and a new Sub-Registry office was opened at Sukhair. The *ex-officio* offices at Gowainghat, Gauhati, Dhubri and Jorhat were all made whole-time, as the number of registrations at those offices rendered this essential. The offices were started as an experimental measure and their permanent retention has since been sanctioned. Prior to opening the Thakurbari Sub-Registry office, in 1913, 8,073 documents were registered at the two offices in Sylhet. Since the office was established, the number of documents registered at Sylhet has somewhat decreased, but the decrease is more than counterbalanced by the number of documents registered at Thakurbari. The figures for 1916 show a net increase of 944 documents. From the financial standpoint, this figure is hardly satisfactory, but the increase shows that registration is becoming more popular with the additional facilities afforded. This remark has more force when the results of the opening of Sukhair Sub-Registry office are reviewed. In 1913, the two offices in the Sunamganj subdivision registered 7,685 documents. In 1916 approximately the same number of documents was registered at those two offices, while in addition 2,599 documents were registered at Sukhair.

MISCELLANEOUS.

18. The average time taken to complete registration did not, as a rule, exceed two days, but in some offices the average time exceeded this period, notably at Goalpara, Golaghat and Sibsagar in the Assam Valley Division, and at Kulura, Madhabpur, Jaldhup, Jagannathpur and Srimangal in the Surma Valley Division; the average time taken at those offices was respectively 6, 8, and 4 days for offices in the Assam Valley Division and 3 days for those in the Surma Valley Division. The District Registrar, Sylhet, explains the delay in the offices within his district partly by the non-receipt of forms; he also remarks that a good deal of delay is inseparable from the system, which prohibits the employment of extra muharrirs until at least 2 days' work is in arrears. The duty of supplying forms was transferred by

the Dacca Central Jail Press to the Press and Forms Manager, Alipore, Calcutta, and there was undoubtedly a delay in the supply of forms. The District Registrar, Goalpara, reports that the delay at Goalpara office was unavoidable, as the Sub-Registrar, who is also the Subdivisional Officer, is frequently on tour in the subdivision. Steps have since been taken to transfer the duties of the Sub-Registrar at Goalpara to the second officer. The District Registrar, Sibsagar, has not explained the delay.

19. The improvement in the pay and prospects of the ministerial establishment employed in Sub-Registry offices, referred to in the last triennial report, was effected.

20. A new Marriage Registration Manual for Assam is under compilation in my office, and will be published as soon as possible.

21. During the triennium ending 1916, a Sub-Registry office building at Srimangal was erected by the Public Works Department. Administrative approval was obtained for the construction of several Sub-Registry office buildings, particularly for such offices as are not suitably housed at present; but unfortunately no funds are available for the execution of the various projects. A new Sub-Registry office at Katigora, Cachar, is imperatively necessary, as the present office is in imminent danger of being absorbed in the river Barak. The question is already under the consideration of the Public Works Department. A new office building for the Kulaura Sub-Registry office is under construction. The question of providing Silchar Sadr Sub-Registry office with a record-room is also under the consideration of the Department.

22. In 1914, Mr. Friel inspected 10 sadr and 16 rural offices and Mr. Edwards 3 sadr and 1 rural office. In 1915, Mr. Edwards inspected 4 sadr and 1 rural office and I inspected 7 sadr and 8 rural offices. In 1916, I inspected 12 sadr and 9 rural offices.

Inspections by District Registrars and Subdivisional Officers have improved since the issue of this Department Circular No. 1, dated the 24th April 1915, wherein the number of inspections required was clearly laid down. There is, however, room for further improvement.

Inspections by the Special Sub-Registrars of Sylhet and Cachar have been sufficient on the whole, though all offices have not been inspected twice.

23. Of District Registrars my thanks are due to Mr. Webster who was District Registrar of Sylhet for the greater part of the triennium, not only for his careful inspection work, but also for one or two valuable suggestions.

The work of both the Special Sub-Registrars—Babu Abhoya Charan Nag, and Maulvi Saïjid Khalil Ullah—has been efficient.

Of Sub-Registrars I consider the following to deserve mention:—Babu Sarada Charan Dutta, since promoted to the post of Special Sub-Registrar, Cachar, Maulvi Sikandar Ali, Maulvi Rafiqul Hussain and Maulvi Ohidur Roza.

My thanks are due to the Registration clerk in my office for his labours in connection with the Marriage Registration Manual.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

S. N. MACKENZIE,

Offg Inspector General of Registration, Assam

REGISTRATIONS AFFECTING IMMOVABLE PROPERTY, BOOK I.

Districts.	Number of Registration offices.	Compulsory.												Optional.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
		Instruments of gift [section 17, clause (a)].				Instruments of sale or exchange of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards.				Instruments of mortgage.				Other instruments registered under section 17, clauses (b) and (c).				Instruments of perpetual lease [section 17, clause (d)].				All instruments of lease (other than of perpetual leases).				Amount of premium paid on leases.				Total compulsory registrations.				Instruments of sale or exchange of value less than Rs. 100.				Instruments of mortgage.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
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Statement of Instruments registered, and of the value of property transferred by registered Instruments, in each of the districts of the Province of Assam for the year 1916.

[illegible]

FORM No. II.

Statement of income, namely, fees realised on registrations and all other receipts in each district of the Province of Assam for the year 1916.

FEES ON REGISTRATION AFFECTING IMMOVABLE PROPERTY, BOOK I.										FEES ON REGISTRATIONS AFFECTING MOVABLE PROPERTY, BOOK IV.										RECEIPTS OTHER THAN FEES ON REGISTRATIONS.															
Compulsory.										Optional.										Total fees on all registrations.															
Instruments of gift [section 17, clause (a)].	Instruments of sale or exchange of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards.	Instruments of sale or exchange of value less than Rs. 100 (sections 51 and 118 of the Transfer of Property Act).	Instruments of mortgage.	Other instruments registered under section 17, clauses (b) and (c).	Instruments of perpetual lease [section 17, clause (d)].	Instruments of lease (other than of perpetual lease).	Total fees on compulsory registrations.	Instruments of sale or exchange of value less than Rs. 100.	Instruments of mortgage.	Instruments of lease.	Other instruments registered under section 18, clauses (a) and (b).	Awards [section 17, clause (2)].	Miscellaneous registrations other than certified copies of decrees and orders of Court.	Certified copies of decrees and orders of Court.	Total fees on optional registrations.	Instruments of gift of movable property [section 128, clause (2), of the Transfer of Property Act].	Instruments of sale, etc., of movable property [clause (d), section 12].	Options for the payment of money [section 18, clause (f)].	All other documents registered under section 18, clause (f).	Total fees on registrations affecting movable property.	Fees on registration of wills in Book III.	Fees on registration of written authorities to adopt other than those conferred by will, Book III.	Total fees on all registrations.						Fees on commissions issued (sections 33 and 34).	Fees on visits paid (sections 31, 32, and 33).	Fees for inspection of Books I and II, and the Indexes to Book I (section 37).	Copying fees credited to Government.	All other receipts.	Total receipts.	Total Income.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34		
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FORM No. III.

Statement of Expenditure in each district of the Province of Assam for the year 1916.

District.	Fixed salaries of Registering Officers.	Percentage paid to Registering Officers.	COST OF ESTABLISHMENTS.			Other items of expenditure.	Total Expenditure.
			Permanent.	Temporary.	Total.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar	4,660	846	4,485	260	4,745	1,053	11,804
Sylhet	22,729	..	18,684	1,842	20,526	3,486	46,741
Khasi and Jaintia Hills ... ..	...	148	157	...	157	22	327
Total Surma Valley and Hill Districts.	27,389	994	23,326	2,102	25,428	4,561	58,372
Goalpara	689	118	764	125	889	453	2,149
Kamrup	931	...	536	104	640	217	1,788
Darrang ... ..	...	...	421	116	537	20	557
Nowgong ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	8	8
Sibsagar	712	...	1,708	70	1,778	229	2,714
Lakhimpur ... ..	...	383	396	9	405	84	872
Garó Hills ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	20	20
Total Assam Valley Districts...	2,332	501	3,820	424	4,244	1,081	8,108
Grand Total	29,721	1,495	27,146	2,526	29,672	5,592	66,480
Total for 1915	28,908	1,461	26,089	2,576	28,665	5,102	64,136
Total for 1914	26,794	3,449	24,399	3,553	27,952	4,265	62,160

FORM No. IV.

Statement of principal operations other than Registration in Books I, III and IV in each district of the Province of Assam for the year 1916.

District.	Covers containing Wills deposited (section 44).	Covers containing Wills withdrawn (section 44).	Covers containing Wills opened (section 45).	Wills removed to Courts under section 25 of the Indian Succession Act, copy being kept in Book III under section 46.	Powers-of-Attorney authenticated.	Registrations under section 25.	Registrations under section 34.	Refusals to register (sections 71 and 76).	APPEALS AGAINST SUCH REFUSALS (SECTION 72) AND APPLICATIONS UNDER SECTION 73 REGARDING SUCH REFUSALS.		Registration ordered by Civil Court (section 77).	Prosecutions (section 88).	NUMBER OF ORDERS AND CERTIFICATES FILED IN BOOK No. I UNDER SECTION 89 OF THE REGISTRATION ACT.				Searches or applications for copies.
									Registration ordered.	Registration refused.			Under Land Improvement Loans Act.	Under Agriculturalists' Loans Act.	Under section 316, Code of Civil Procedure.	Granted by Revenue Officers.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Cachar	3	50	13	20	51	14	...	...	...	...	...	50	...	546
Sylhet	143	44	212	581	181	37	...	1	...	...	...	381	24	3,847
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Total Surma Valley and Hill Districts.	146	129	225	601	232	51	...	1	...	...	...	481	24	3,901
Goalpara	1	...	...	38	1	5	23	3	...	...	...	...	...	80	...	171
Kamrup	24	...	...	18	1	1	1	...	...	...	11	17	227
Darrang	12	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Nowgong	12	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	14
Sibsagar	1	...	...	71	...	1	44	...	1	...	...	...	...	76	...	126
Lakhimpur	5	...	60	...	...	7	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Garó Hills	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total Assam Valley Districts.	1	1	5	...	221	1	6	102	6	2	1	...	...	...	179	17	681
Grand Total	1	1	5	146	350	228	607	334	57	2	2	...	...	...	610	41	4,532
Total for 1915	2	...	5	4	452	73	213	655	207	54	3	1	...	106	701	79	4,702
Total for 1914	13	12	508	40	222	746	242	69	...	...	...	...	690	98	4,918

PROVINCIAL STATEMENT A.

STATEMENT OF REGISTRATIONS, RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF EACH REGISTRATION OFFICE IN THE PROVINCE OF ASSAM DURING THE YEAR 1916.

Offices.	Total number of documents registered in Books I, III and IV.	Total amount of ordinary fees.	Total of other receipts.	Total receipts.	Total expenditure.
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Silchar	5,595	5,530	1,431	6,961	4,487
Halakandi	4,002	4,228	919	5,147	2,151
Katigora	1,816	1,434	200	1,634	2,361
Lakhipur	1,322	2,231	176	1,407	1,155
Palonghat	2,250	2,038	74	2,112	1,139
Total	14,985	14,161	2,800	17,261	11,304
Sylhet	2,382	2,772	4,446	7,218	7,428
Ditto Joint	4,256	4,249	1,064	5,313	2,665
Habiganj	5,074	5,812	1,700	7,512	2,879
Sunamganj	4,825	3,817	841	4,661	2,268
Karimganj	6,047	5,758	1,103	6,861	2,794
South Sylhet	4,655	4,573	1,118	5,691	3,067
Balaganj	3,030	2,814	380	3,194	2,169
Kulaura	2,880	2,999	553	3,552	2,040
Madhabpur	2,777	2,513	247	2,760	1,658
Jaldhup	4,956	4,399	306	4,705	3,258
Kanaighat	2,704	1,997	128	2,125	1,621
Jagannathpur	2,755	2,246	266	2,512	2,137
Patharkandi	2,452	2,233	291	2,524	1,873
Baniyachang	3,495	2,815	345	3,160	2,621
Gowainghat	1,532	1,031	193	1,161	1,486
Biswanath	2,630	2,230	394	2,624	2,303
Srimangal	2,836	2,416	507	2,923	1,775
Sukhair	2,599	2,086	553	2,639	1,170
Thakurbari	2,379	2,182	325	2,507	1,509
Total	64,264	58,942	14,703	73,645	46,741
Shillong	194	352	89	441	277
Jowai	79	123	3	126	50
Total	273	475	92	567	327
Total Surma Valley and Hill Districts	79,522	73,878	17,595	91,473	58,373
Dhubri	2,526	2,995	796	3,792	1,913
Goalpara	275	259	131	389	236
Total	2,801	3,254	927	4,181	2,149
Gauhati	1,801	1,903	843	2,746	1,788
Barpeta	329	366	161	527	...
Total	2,130	2,269	1,004	3,273	1,788
Tezpur	674	679	68	747	437
Mangaldai	179	148	43	191	120
Total	853	827	111	938	557
Nowgong	339	318	79	397	8
Jorhat	1,834	1,746	270	2,016	1,589
Sibsagar	749	651	124	775	745
Golaghat	855	754	104	858	380
Total	3,438	3,151	498	3,649	2,714
Dibrugarh	985	1,195	386	1,581	794
North Lakhimpur	189	132	9	141	78
Total	1,174	1,327	395	1,722	872
Garo Hills	14	11	9	20	20
Total of Assam Valley Districts	10,749	11,157	3,023	14,180	8,108
Grand Total	90,271	85,035	20,618	1,05,653	66,480
Total for 1915	90,089	88,143	22,392	1,11,035	64,126
Total for 1914	88,199	86,247	23,302	1,09,550	62,150



**Resolution on the Administration of the Registration Department
in the Province of Assam for the years 1914-16.**

*Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Commissioner of Assam in the General
Department, No. 5438G., dated Shillong, the 12th May 1917.*

READ—

The Triennial Report on the Administration of the Registration Department in the Province of Assam for the years 1914, 1915 and 1916.

R E S O L U T I O N .

THIS report deals with the working of the Registration Department in the Province of Assam for the three years ending the 31st December 1916.

2. There were at the end of the period under review 39 offices at work as against 38 at the end of the previous triennium. The temporary office at Gauripore was closed, and two new offices were opened in the Surma Valley. Owing to the increase in the volume of registration work, the *ex-officio* sub-registry offices at Dhubri, Gauhati and Jorhat in the Assam Valley were converted into wholetime departmental offices.

3. Effect was given to the revised scale of pay, sanctioned towards the close of the previous triennium, for the ministerial establishment in sadar and rural sub-registry offices. The pay of permanent muharrirs, also, was raised to Rs. 20 per mensem.

4. Registration work increased by 19·05 per cent. during the period under review as compared with 8·29 per cent. in the previous triennium. The expansion is attributed mainly to the natural growth of business and the growing popularity of registration, and partly to the establishment of co-operative societies and to bad harvests and dull trade consequent on the floods in the Surma Valley. The total receipts of the department during the triennium were Rs. 3,26,538 and the expenditure Rs. 1,92,776.

5. The Chief Commissioner notes with satisfaction an improvement in the amount of inspection work on the part of District Registrars and Subdivisional Officers, and trusts that this will be maintained. The delay in completing registration, which still occurs at certain offices, and the increase in the number of unreturned documents are unsatisfactory features of the report.

6. The practice of registering marriages and divorces is gaining in favour with the Muhammadans of Cachar, Sylhet and Goalpara. The system has not made appreciable progress in the other districts of the Assam Valley. The Chief Commissioner trusts that members of the Permanent Committee will act on Mr. Mackenzie's suggestion that they should inspect Muhammadan Marriage Registration offices in their neighbourhood.

7. The Chief Commissioner's thanks are due to the different officers who have held charge of the department during the period under review, and to the officers mentioned for good work in paragraph 23 of the report.

ORDERED that the Resolution be published in the *Assam Gazette*.

By order of the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

A. W. BOTHAM,

Second Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

